

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1592

To limit USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To limit USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Our Lands
5 and Resources Act” or the “SOLAR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**
7 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

9 (1) CONVERSION.—The term “conversion”
10 means, with respect to covered farmland, any activ-

1 ity that results in the covered farmland failing to
2 meet the requirements of a State (defined in section
3 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
4 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural produc-
5 tion, activity, or use.

6 (2) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term “covered
7 farmland” means farmland, as defined in section
8 1540(e)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7
9 U.S.C. 4201(e)(1)).

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Agriculture.

12 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide fi-
13 nancial assistance for a project that would result in the
14 conversion of covered farmland for solar energy produc-
15 tion.

16 (c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to
17 a project if the project—

18 (1) results in the conversion of less than 5
19 acres of covered farmland;

20 (2) results in the conversion of less than 50
21 acres of covered farmland, and the majority of the
22 energy produced by the project is for on-farm use;
23 or

1 (3) has received a resolution of approval or sup-
2 port, or other similar instrument from each county
3 and municipality in which the project is sited.

4 (d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

5 (1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-
6 QUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary
7 for financial assistance for a project referred to in
8 subsection (c)(3) shall—

9 (A) develop a farmland conservation plan
10 for the project to—

11 (i) implement best practices to protect
12 future soil health and productivity, and
13 mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and
14 other effects of solar energy production
15 during construction, operation, and decom-
16 missioning; and

17 (ii) remediate and restore the soil
18 health of the farmland to that of the farm-
19 land before the solar energy production
20 project construction; and

21 (B) ensure sufficient funds, as determined
22 by the Secretary, are provided for the decom-
23 missioning of the solar energy production sys-
24 tem and the remediation and restoration of cov-

1 ered farmland to carry out the farmland con-
2 servation plan described in subparagraph (A).

3 (2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF
4 FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial as-
5 sistance for a project described under paragraph (1),
6 but shall not disburse the financial assistance until
7 the Secretary has determined that the applicant for
8 the financial assistance has complied with paragraph
9 (1).

10 (3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLE-
11 MENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1)
12 shall carry out—

13 (A) the provisions of the plan that are de-
14 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt
15 by the project of financial assistance from the
16 Secretary and for the duration of solar energy
17 production under the project; and

18 (B) the provisions of the plan that are de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation
20 of solar energy production under the project.

21 (4) COMPLIANCE.—Any project that fails to
22 comply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project
23 shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the

- 1 financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the
- 2 person for the project.

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